

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02464 181512Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /083 W

-----181655Z 063203 /43

P 181430Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7597

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2464

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

MAPUTO FOR YOUNG PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW) SF, US

SUBJECT: BPC COMMENTS ON YOUNG VISIT; US ATTITUDES

REF: PRETORIA 2398,

1. EMBOFF HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION WITH BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION (BPC) PRESIDENT KENNETH RACHIDI, VICE PRESIDENT REV. DRAKE TSHEKENG, ADVISER TO PRESIDENT TOM MONTHATE, AND BPC OFFICIAL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT REV. SMANGALISO MKHATSHWA ON MAY 18 IN JOHANNESBURG. MEETING WAS REQUESTED BY RACHIDI IN ORDER TO CONVEY BPC REACTION TO YOUNG VISIT. SYNOPSIS OF BPC MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 02464 181512Z

2. USG PERCEPTION OF BLACK "LEADERS" IN SA: BPC HAS NOTED REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL MEET BLACK "LEADERS" IN SA. THE US EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON ARE EITHER IGNORANT OF OR WISH TO IGNORE THE EXISTENCE OF THE "TRUE BLACK LEADERS" OF SOUTH AFRICA (SEE REFTTEL). YOUNG WILL PROBABLY REPEAT PAST US MISTAKE BY MEETING

WITH HOMELAND OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN, AND OTHER PEOPLE WITH VESTED INTEREST IN STATUS QUO. BPC FINDS IT STRANGE THAT THE US SPEAKS TO "TRUE BLACK LEADERS" IN ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, AND MOZAMBIQUE BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SOUTH AFRICA, THE USG POSITION IS COMPROMISED. IN BPC VIEW, YOUNG SHOULD ASK TO SEE NELSON MANDELA, ROBERT SOBUKWE, WALTER SISULU, AND GOVAN MBEKI. THE BPC RECOGNIZES THAT THE SAG MAY NOT PERMIT MEETINGS WITH THESE PEOPLE, BUT IF THE AMERICANS AT LEAST TRIED, THEY WOULD BE MAKING THE RIGHT SIGNALS BY RECOGNIZING THE AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP. FOLLOWING THIS SIGNAL, YOUNG SHOULD THEN MEET WITH THE BPC AND OTHER BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS GROUPS. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, YOUNG INVITES PEOPLE SUCH AS GATSHA BUTHELEZI AND ALIKE UNDER THE GUISE OF "LEADERS", THIS WILL BE INTERPRETED AS ANOTHER SNUMB TO ALL "TRUE BLACK LEADERS" IN SOUTH AFRICA.

3. BPC CABLE TO US EMBASSY ON RAMPHELE BANNING: IN REFERENCE EMBOFF'S CALL TO RACHIDI ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF BPC TELEGRAM ASKING FOR USG ACTION ON THE RAMPHELE AND MVOVO BANNINGS IN KING WILLIAM'S TOWN, RACHIDI SAID HE DENIED SENDING THE CABLE BECAUSE ANY OTHER RESPONSE TO THE WAY THE QUESTION WAS PRESENTED WOULD HAVE GOTTEN HIM INTO TROUBLE. RACHIDI POINTED OUT THAT THE SECURITY POLICE MAKE TAPE RECORDINGS OF ALL HIS PHONE CALLS AND WERE HE TO SAY THAT HE PERSONALLY SENT THE CABLE, THE ADMISSION COULD BE USED AGAINST HIM IN THE FUTURE. RACHIDI SAID THE CABLES WERE SENT BY THE BPC AS AN ORGANIZATION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 02464 181512Z

NOT BY RACHIDI AS AN INDIVIDUAL. RACHIDI EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT EITHER THE US EMBASSY OR CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD TAKE ANY ACTION ON THE BANNINGS.

4. COMMENT: FROM CONVERSATION ON ABOVE AND RELATED TOPICS, BPC OFFICIALS EXPRESSED GENERAL SKEPTICISM THAT US WILL ACT ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN FROM PAST. EMBOFF GAINED IMPRESSION BPC WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE US WILL NOT STAND IN WAY OF WHAT THEY SEE AS THEIR FIGHT, BUT REMAIN WARY ON ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN WASHINGTON'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA. NELSON

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